

wider one through the cell, and another nearer the base, black. Head above black, spotted with buff; thorax black, with two longitudinal light bands on either side; abdomen above black, banded with olive, the extremity buff; palpi beneath, thorax, abdominal bands, hind surface of the coxæ, and dorsal fringe of the hind tibiæ orange-buff, the rest of the legs and antennæ black.

The tegumen of the male secondary organs is split into two flattened lobes, beneath which is a cylindrical rod, which may be part of the scaphium; the harpes are upturned and end in a rounded lobe with a serrate edge; on the inner surface of the dorsal edge is a small lobe directed backwards, and on the inner surface of each harpe nearer the base is an elongated lobe with a strongly serrated dorsal edge. These organs, though differing in several details of structure, are similar in the main features to those of *Amenis pionia*.

Exp. 2.2 inches.

Female similar to the male, but rather larger and with more rounded wings.

Hab. Cajamarca, Peru, alt. 10,000 feet (*O. T. Baron*).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Edited by W. T. BLANFORD. *Moths*.—Vol. III. By G. F. HAMPSON.

NOTWITHSTANDING the almost phenomenal speed with which one volume of the 'Moths of India' has followed another, this third instalment is in no respect inferior to the previous ones. The keys to the subfamilies and genera evidence the author's unflagging industry; and the illustrations, prepared under his supervision, demonstrate his perfect knowledge of the anatomical differences upon which these divisions are based.

The present volume deals with the two remaining groups of Noctuidæ—the Focillinæ and Detoidinæ,—also the three small families, Epicopiidæ, Uraniidæ, and Epiplemidæ, of which the author remarks that they might perhaps be regarded as subdivisions of one comprehensive family, the Uraniidæ; but by far the greater part of the volume is occupied with the extensive family Geometridæ. In his subdivision of this immense group of moths Mr. Hampson has largely followed the classification proposed by Mr. Meyrick for the European genera of the family.

Unmoved alike by the open disapproval of one class of lepidopterists and the praise of another, Mr. Hampson, with true scientific stoicism, has continued to treat both genera and species precisely in the same way in this as in the previous volumes: all genera

based upon secondary sexual characters are regarded as sections; all local races or supposed varietal forms are reduced to a dead level as synonyms. Although it is certain that in this matter of synonymy the author of the 'Moths of India' will have many opponents, and in the case of some species probably no followers, his action must yet be respected as an evidence of that indomitable self-reliance, without which the completion of so arduous a task as a comprehensive revision of the Indian Moths would have been quite impossible. Mr. Hampson has expressed his own honest convictions, and those who do not agree with the minor detail of synonymy are not bound to follow his lead; but in any case all true lepidopterists must most earnestly desire that the ability which the author has shown in bringing order out of chaotic confusion may be recognized by the sanction of a fourth volume, to include the Pyralidæ.

A. G. BUTLER.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Irish Stoat distinct from the British.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS and G. E. H. BARRETT HAMILTON.

[Preliminary note.]

THERE has always been a great deal of confusion as to the identity of the single Irish member of the genus *Putorius*; but the fact that it has a long black-tipped tail has always been hitherto taken as sufficient proof that it is a stoat (*P. ermineus*), and not, as the natives call it, a weasel. The third alternative—that it is neither—seems never to have presented itself to anyone's mind; but on a careful comparison of specimens we have now come to the conclusion that this animal is an insular intermediate form, with some of the characters of each of our two British species, and is not referable to either of them.

It may be called

Putorius hibernicus, sp. n.

Intermediate in size between the two allied species. Light colour of underside white, not yellowish; not extending on to the upper lip, much narrowed on chest and belly, and not extending on limbs beyond the middle of the forearms and lower legs, the whole of the hands and feet being brown with the exception of a few hairs on the ends of the toes. Tail as in the stoat, but rather shorter.

Dimensions of the type (an adult male), measured in the flesh:—

Head and body 228 millim.; tail 88; hind foot 40; ear 21. Basal length of skull 41·2.

Type from Enniskillen, killed Jan. 7, 1895; presented to the British Museum by J. E. Harting, Esq.

A fuller account of this interesting animal, and our reasons for distinguishing it, will appear in the 'Zoo'logist' for April.